

## Summary and Conclusions

The ecology of gonorrhoea and the methods used for its control are discussed. It is normally an infection of the promiscuous and is most frequent in the large cities, where immigrants and itinerants congregate and fail to establish stable sexual relationships. The socio-economic factors are complex, but the influence of prostitution and alcohol is clear. The asymptomatic nature of the infection in the female and the persistence of a "reservoir" of gonorrhoea in a small but promiscuous section of the female population are the major causes of the failure of our attempts at control.

This failure, the rising incidence of gonorrhoea, and the threat of penicillin resistance call urgently for research with a biological approach which might, by making possible the immunization of carefully selected groups, eventually lead to the eradication of gonorrhoea.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *British Journal of Venereal Diseases*.

Dear Sir.—I should like to call your attention to what I feel is a mis-statement of fact in the article by Bailey and Bishop in the *British Journal of Venereal Diseases* (1959), 35, 8. The statement is as follows: "... a Donovan body, found characteristically in the cytoplasm of white blood cells, particularly the large mono-nuclear leucocytes."

To my knowledge the Donovan body of granuloma inguinale has never been demonstrated in any circulating white blood cells. The organisms parasitize large mononuclear tissue (endothelial) cells and may be demonstrated by tissue spread preparations or histologic section. Pund and Green-

blatt feel that the parasitized tissue cell found in histologic sections is as pathognomonic for granuloma inguinale as the Sternberg-Reid cell is for Hodgkin's disease.

It is hoped that this note may in some measure serve to rectify and clarify a possible misconception concerning the Donovan body of granuloma inguinale.

Yours faithfully,

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